Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1, 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A unit as in claim ~~27~~30 which includes additional circuits to evaluate the received synchronizing signal and, responsive thereto, to determine if an additional message is expected.

4. (Previously Presented) A unit as in claim 3 which includes further circuitry to extend the active mode and to acquire and respond to any expected additional message.

5. (Original) A unit as in claim 3 where the control circuitry comprises, at least in part, a processor and executable instructions.

6. (Original) A unit as in claim 5 which includes timer circuitry, coupled to the processor, for initiating the periodic, limited duration active mode.

7. (Previously Presented) A unit as in claim 5 which includes executable instructions for at least receiving data using a different protocol than a protocol exhibited by the synchronizing signal.

8. (Previously Presented) A unit as in claim 5 which includes executable instructions for transmitting data with a different protocol than a protocol of the received synchronizing signal.

9. (Original) A unit as in claim 7 which includes executable instructions that sense and decode multiple data signals received from multiple sources substantially simultaneously.

10. (Previously Presented) A unit as in claim 9 where the sense and decode process comprises bit arbitration.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~11~~ 32 which includes evaluating multiple simultaneously received data signals and discerning one from another.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 12 which includes minimizing energy requirements at a plurality of synchronizing signal receiving locations between such signals.

14, 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~15~~ 33 where at least one of the second device or the third device includes a battery.

17. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~15~~ 33 where the synchronization signal is transmitted periodically with a predetermined timing.

18. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~15~~ 33 where the synchronization signal includes at least one of RF frequencies, optical frequencies or sonic frequencies.

19. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~15~~ 33 where the synchronizing function includes transmitting a signal representative of a detector state.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 18 where a detector state comprises at least one of an alarm, trouble, voltage, input, or sensor condition.

21. (Original) A system as in claim 18 where the first device receives the transmitted signal.

22. (Original) A system as in claim 18 wherein the said transmitting of a signal includes at least in part a frequency that is the same as the synchronization signal frequency.

23. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~15~~ 33 where the synchronization signal includes variable frequencies.

24. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~15~~ 33 which includes a plurality of devices receiving the wireless synchronization signal.

25. (Original) A system as in claim 24 where members of the plurality each include circuitry to transmit data signals at different offsets from the synchronizing signal in response to at least one of, a substantially random number, or, a unique device identifier.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) An electrical unit having:

a wireless communications port ;

a transceiver coupled to the port ; and

control circuitry coupled to the transceiver, the control circuitry and transceiver have, at least, an inactive mode interrupted by an intermittent, limited duration higher power active mode, the control circuitry including circuitry to monitor the port for receipt of a wireless synchronizing signal, and responsive thereto to establish an offset from the wireless synchronizing signal and to enter the active mode a time interval, corresponding to the offset, prior to receipt of subsequent wireless synchronizing signals and to receive other incoming signals with the control circuitry responding to an incoming signal requesting information by transmitting requested information via the transceiver and where the control circuitry simultaneously monitors signals received from the transceiver and determines, using bit

arbitration, that a higher priority message is being received and responsive to that determination terminates the transmission.

31. (New) A unit as in claim 30 where the control circuitry subsequent to terminating the transmission, restarts transmitting the requested information via the transceiver and where the control circuitry again simultaneously monitors signals received from the transceiver to determine if a higher priority message is being received.

32. (New) A method which includes

transmitting a sequence of common wireless synchronizing signals;

prior to receiving a synchronizing signal, entering an active mode to receive and evaluate the synchronizing signal, and responsive thereto while in the active mode, receiving or transmitting data; and

continuously remaining in the active mode for a period of time at least until no further data is being received or transmitted and which includes conducting bit arbitration while transmitting data.

33 (New). A communication system having at least three devices that can wirelessly transmit and receive signals comprising:

a first device that transmits a sequence of wireless, common, synchronization signals;

at least a second device receiving the wireless synchronization signals, the second device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signals such that energy consumption of the second device is increased for a period of time before, during and immediately after each synchronization signal;

at least a third device receiving the wireless synchronization signals, the third device synchronizes functions to the synchronization signals such that the energy consumption of the third device is increased for a period of time before, during and immediately after each synchronization signal, where the second device is capable of receiving a wireless signal from the third device and the third device is capable of receiving a wireless signal from the second

device and where each of the second and third devices carries out a bit arbitration process while wirelessly transmitting signals.